

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments above and remarks below is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 9 to 14 and 16 to 22 are currently before the Examiner. Claims 20-22 are currently amended.

Claims 1, 3, 9-14, 16, 17 and 19-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Schwarzer (US 3,452,116). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Specifically, the office action states that Schwarzer teaches a process for preparing a resin coated article, wherein the process comprises contacting a substrate with an accelerated resin composition and a curing mechanism.

Applicants' claim 1 is directed to a process for preparing a resin coated article, wherein the cure accelerator is an alkali metal hydroxide or alkoxide and the curing agent is dicyandiamide or melamine. Applicants' novel invention specifically utilizes alkali metal hydroxides or alkoxides as cure accelerators, not curing agents, to produce resins with epoxy-curing agent bonds.

Schwarzer is unable to produce cured resins with predominantly epoxy-curing agent bonds (rather than epoxy-epoxy) because Schwarzer does not utilize an alkali metal compound as a cure accelerator but rather as a curing agent (column 6, lines 31-35). In Schwarzer, alkali metal hydroxides and phenoxides are specifically listed as curing agents (column 6 lines 31-35). Schwarzer only teaches and suggests as cure accelerators/promoters: tertiary amines; octoates; sulfides and phosphines (column 7, lines 22-27). Furthermore, Schwarzer only discloses the use of cure accelerators/promoters when "anhydride curing agents are utilized" (column 7, line 22-23) not during the use of acidic curing agents of Applicants' invention, such as dicyandiamide and melamine. Without applicants' combination of an acidic curing agent such as dicyandiamide

or melamine with a curing accelerator such as an alkali metal containing compound, the teachings of Schwarzer are only capable of producing epoxy-epoxy linear polymerization bonds.

Cured resins produced by epoxy-epoxy linear polymerization demonstrate decreased properties such as lower heat distortion temperatures, lower elongation and lower durability when compared to applicants' resins that contain predominantly epoxy-curing agent bonds.

Applicants herewith submit a Declaration Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.132, from Larry Steven Corley, an inventor named in the present invention, stating that the process of the present invention is different from that of Schwarzer and such differences are attributable to the present invention's use of alkali metal cure accelerators combined with acidic curing agents.

Additionally, Schwarzer does not teach the limitations of currently amended claims 20-22 wherein the phenol and phenol-type compounds do not include tetraphenols. Basis for this amendment can be found in paragraphs [015] to [017] of applicants' application as filed.

Schwarzer teaches the bromination or chlorination of only tetraphenols to produce an epoxy resin (column 2, lines 17 – column 3, line 35 and claim 1). The halogenation of the required component of tetraphenol is necessary in Schwarzer to provide its intended purpose of flame retardation. Therefore, applicants' currently amended claims 20-22 differ from Schwarzer because applicants do not claim the ability to produce an epoxy resin made from the reaction of a tetraphenol. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4-7 and 18 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwarzer (US 3,452,116) in view of Alvino *et al.* (US 4,327,143). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Referring to the discussions above, claims 2, 4-7 and 18 incorporate the limitations of claim 1 and are considered patentable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or requires additional information, he is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Yuen

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